# Press release

## Met Office sets new standard with NVQs in forecasting and observing

31 January 2002

This week the Met Office College was the first assessment centre to receive accreditation to deliver two new NVQs (National Vocational Qualification) in forecasting and observing.*

The creation of the new NVQs has been sponsored by the Royal Meteorological Society, while the Met Office, together with representatives from the Royal Navy and Oceanroutes worked out the standards that were acceptable to the awarding body of VQSET (Vocational Qualifications in Science, Engineering and Technology) and to QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority).

David Bennetts, head of the Met Office College, explained: "Up until now, there has been no nationally recognised standard against which forecasters and observers could judge themselves or be judged. As a world leader in meteorological training, we are delighted to have been involved in developing the new qualification and to be the first centre to receive official accreditation to deliver the training."

"Initial feedback and interest has been extremely positive, both nationally and internationally," added David Bennetts.

The Met Office College is currently based at Shinfield Park, Reading, and offers training courses for aviators, sailors, teachers, professional and amateur weather forecasters and observers. The College offers some 100 courses and attracts around 100 overseas students from 30 countries each year.

From September, as part of the Met Office relocation programme, the College will be moving to South Devon College, Torquay. This is a temporary base until the building work at the new operational centre and HQ in Exeter is completed.

Notes

The Met Office College has an established reputation nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence for meteorological training. It provides training in:

- weather forecasting, including for media weather presenters;
- weather observing, for example for air traffic services personnel;
- theoretical meteorology for research and development scientists;
- applying meteorology in numerous disciplines, such as aviation and sailing.

It is also a growing centre for the provision of training in IT and management skills.

*The NVQs in forecasting and observing include the following mandatory units:

Forecasting

- Clarifying customers' meteorological needs
- Monitoring the weather
- Preparing forecast data
- Preparing weather forecasts in different formats
- Quality control and verifying weather forecasts
- Identifying needs and opportunities to develop or improve meteorological procedures, tools and/or facilities
- Briefing users of meteorological information and weather forecasts
- Working in a team
- Managing yourself
- Working safely

Observing

- Maintaining continuous weather watch
- Making and recording surface-based visual meteorological observations
- Making and recording surface-based meteorological observations using instrumentation
- Coding and submitting observations
- Advising customers how to interpret and use meteorological information
- Quality control systems
- Identifying needs and opportunities to develop or improve meteorological procedures, tools and/or facilities
- Working in a team
- Managing yourself
- Working safely

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